

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A housing bay providing access to an internal data port in a computer, the housing bay
2 comprising:
3 an access door rotatably connected to an opening of a computer housing, wherein the
4 access door occludes the opening in the computer housing when the access door is closed, the
5 access door having:
6 a hinged end having a hinge that is connected to the computer housing,
7 a data port proximate to the hinged end of the access door, the data port
8 capable of providing a data connection between a data line inside the computer
9 and an peripheral device, and
10 an open end for manually accessing the peripheral device when coupling
11 or decoupling the peripheral device to the data port;
12 wherein, when open, the access door angles away from an exterior surface of the
13 computer to allow the peripheral device to be inserted into or removed from the data port, the
14 data port being in an interior of the computer.
- 1 2. The housing bay of claim 1, wherein the peripheral device is inoperable when the access
2 door is open.
- 1 3. The housing bay of claim 1, wherein, when closed, the access door is co-planar to the
2 exterior surface of the computer, the peripheral device being operable when the access door is
3 closed.
- 1 4. The housing bay of claim 3, wherein the access door is co-planar to the exterior surface
2 of the computer regardless of whether the peripheral device is inside the computer or not.
- 1 5. The housing bay of claim 1, wherein the connection port is physically connected to the
2 hinged end of the access door.

1 6. The housing bay of claim 1, further comprising:
2 securement clips physically attached to the access door, the securement clips securing the
3 peripheral device to an interior of the access door, and the securement clips providing an
4 alignment for a connection of the peripheral device to the data port.

1 7. The housing bay of claim 1, wherein the data port is a universal serial bus (USB) port.

1 8. The housing bay of claim 1, wherein the peripheral device is a data storage device.

1 9. The housing bay of claim 1, wherein the computer further comprises:
2 an electronic lock for locking the access door in a closed position, the electronic lock
3 being capable of being unlocked by inputting a code into the computer.

1 10. The housing bay of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a switch plunger on the access door, the switch plunger being aligned with a disabling
3 switch inside the computer, the disabling switch disabling the data port inside the computer.

1 11. A method for providing access to an peripheral device to a computer, the method
2 comprising:
3 providing an access door that is rotatably connected to an opening of a computer housing,
4 wherein the access door occludes the opening in the computer housing when the access door is
5 closed, the access door having:
6 a hinged end having a hinge that is connected to a computer housing,
7 a data port proximate to the hinged end of the access door, the data port
8 capable of providing a data connection between a data line inside the computer
9 and an peripheral device, and
10 an open end for manually accessing the peripheral device when coupling
11 or decoupling the peripheral device to the data port;

12 wherein, when open, the access door angles away from the exterior surface of the
13 computer to allow the peripheral device to be inserted into or removed from an interior of the
14 computer.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the peripheral device is inoperable when the access
2 door is open.

1 13. The method of claim 11, wherein, when closed, the access door is co-planar to the
2 exterior surface of the computer, the peripheral device being operable when the access door is
3 closed.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the access door is co-planar to the exterior surface of
2 the computer regardless of whether the peripheral device is inside the computer or not.

1 15. The method of claim 11, wherein the connection port is physically connected to the
2 hinged end of the access door.

1 16. The method of claim 11, further comprising:
2 securing the peripheral device to the access door using securement clips that are attached
3 to the access door, the securement clips providing an alignment of a connector of the peripheral
4 device to the data port.

1 17. The method of claim 11, wherein the connection port is a universal serial bus (USB)
2 connection port.

1 18. The method of claim 11, wherein the storage device is a solid state storage device having
2 no moving internal parts.

1 19. The method of claim 11, further comprising:
2 disabling the external device when the access door is open using a switch engager on the
3 access door, the switch engager being aligned with a disabling switch in the computer, the
4 disabling switch disabling the data line inside the computer.

1 20. A computer having a housing bay that provides access to an internal data port in the
2 computer, the computer comprising:
3 an access door rotatably connected to an opening of a computer housing, wherein the
4 access door occludes the opening in the computer housing when the access door is closed, the
5 access door having:
6 a hinged end having a hinge that is connected to the computer housing,
7 a data port proximate to the hinged end of the access door, the data port
8 capable of providing a data connection between a data line inside the computer
9 and an peripheral device, and
10 an open end for manually accessing the peripheral device when coupling
11 or decoupling the peripheral device to the data port;
12 wherein, when open, the access door angles away from an exterior surface of the
13 computer to allow the peripheral device to be inserted into or removed from the data port, the
14 data port being in an interior of the computer.